

SENATOR DIERKS: By definition in LB 104, domestic animal means any dog or cat.

SENATOR PIRSCH: It wouldn't include rabbits, gerbils, hamsters...

SENATOR DIERKS: No, it does not.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...white rats?

SENATOR DIERKS: No, we've defined it in the bill itself, it is defined as domestic animal shall mean any dog or cat, and then Senator Lamb's amendment says, which is primarily a household pet. So, we do not have rabies vaccines available for some of those animals that you speak of. It is not available.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, I would assume so. You mentioned that cattle have a greater percentage of rabies. Do cattle now have to be inoculated?

SENATOR DIERKS: No, they don't, but they are a source of problem, source of infection, possible source of infection to people that handle them, but you see cattle don't, as a rule, bite, you know. I mean, you have to get it by sticking your hand in a mouth of an animal that has got the virus in its saliva. So when we see an animal that is doing a lot of slobbering, and we think possibly there is a bone in their mouth, or a stick or something, we reach in there to try to extract it and find no stick, then we have to be awfully careful that we are not dealing with a rabid animal. In many cases, we are, so most of us have had the series of shots several times because we always have a cut on our hands, you know. We have to be very careful with that but, no, the vaccine is available for cattle and it is available for horses, and very few of them get it.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you very much.

SENATOR DIERKS: You are welcome.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, I believe you wanted to speak to the bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, members, I passed out a chart. Senator Dierks was asked a question by Senator Wehrbein, I believe, about the number of incidents of rabies in the state.